

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 9 as indicated below.

Please add new claims 20-29 as presented below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for controlling the temperature of a baking oven including a catalyst, a heating source, an oven chamber temperature sensor, and a catalyst temperature sensor, the method comprising:

generating a first electrical control signal based on a first control state, the first control state being a function of respective electrical sensor signals from the oven chamber temperature sensor and the catalyst temperature sensor, the first control state being reached when a catalyst temperature is higher than an oven chamber temperature and a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is ~~greater than or equal to~~ increasing and exceeds a first threshold value; and

controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the heating source includes an electrical heating element of the baking oven.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising generating a second electrical control signal based on a second control state, the second control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature, and the temperature

difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is smaller than a second threshold value and was previously greater than the first threshold value.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising controlling the heating source using the second electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is increased or maintained substantially constant at a first predefined value for a first predetermined period of time.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising generating a third electrical control signal based on a third control state, the third control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is greater than or equal to a third threshold value.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising controlling the heating source using the third electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature falls to or below a fourth threshold value.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising generating a fourth electrical control signal based on a fourth control state, the fourth control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature, the oven chamber temperature is at the fourth threshold value, and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature was previously greater than or equal to the third threshold value.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 15 further comprising controlling the heating source using the fourth electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant at the fourth threshold value.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber

temperature is maintained substantially constant at a second predefined value for at least a second predetermined period of time.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising controlling the heating source using the third electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant at a second predefined value for at least a second predetermined period of time.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the baking oven includes a control unit having an evaluation circuit configured to process the electrical sensor signals, and wherein the generating is performed by the control unit.

Claim 20 (new): A method for controlling the temperature of a baking oven including a catalyst, a heating source, an oven chamber temperature sensor, and a catalyst temperature sensor, the method comprising:

generating a first electrical control signal based on a first control state, the first control state being a function of respective electrical sensor signals from the oven chamber temperature sensor and the catalyst temperature sensor, the first control state being reached when a catalyst temperature is higher than an oven chamber temperature and a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is greater than or equal to a first threshold value;

controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant; and

generating a second electrical control signal based on a second control state, the second control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature, and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is smaller than a second threshold value and was previously greater than the first threshold value.

Claim 21(new): The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the heating source includes an electrical heating element of the baking oven.

Claim 22 (new): The method as recited in claim 20 further comprising controlling the heating source using the second electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is increased or maintained substantially constant at a first predefined value for a first predetermined period of time.

Claim 23 (new): The method as recited in claim 20 further comprising generating a third electrical control signal based on a third control state, the third control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is greater than or equal to a third threshold value.

Claim 24 (new): The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising controlling the heating source using the third electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature falls to or below a fourth threshold value.

Claim 25 (new): The method as recited in claim 24 further comprising generating a fourth electrical control signal based on a fourth control state, the fourth control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature, the oven chamber temperature is at the fourth threshold value, and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature was previously greater than or equal to the third threshold value.

Claim 26 (new): The method as recited in claim 25 further comprising controlling the heating source using the fourth electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant at the fourth threshold value.

Claim 27 (new): The method as recited in claim 20 further comprising controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant at a second predefined value for at least a second predetermined period of time.

Claim 28 (new): The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising controlling the heating source using the third electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant at a second predefined value for at least a second predetermined period of time.

Claim 29 (new): The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the baking oven includes a control unit having an evaluation circuit configured to process the electrical sensor signals, and wherein the generating is performed by the control unit.